

present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Riga on February 13 and May 23, 1997, extends the 1993 Agreement to December 31, 1999.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Latvia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

REPORT OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 91

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1996, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment;

S. 1349. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel *Prince Nova*, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1271) to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2000, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated on Monday, February 2, 1998:

EC-3930. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to intelligence-related oversight activities for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3931. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1997"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-334. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas the triweekly Amtrak Pioneer passenger railroad service between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho, is vital to the economy of the State of Oregon; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will leave many people without their only form of transportation; and

Whereas many people in eastern Oregon rely upon the Amtrak Pioneer service in the harsh winter months when bus and automobile travel is not safe and often not possible; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will leave many people, especially the elderly and disabled, stranded without adequate transportation to medical services in distant metropolitan areas; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will have long lasting negative economic and cultural effects on the rural communities that line the route; and

Whereas the Amtrak Pioneer service has a history and tradition with the people who use the service; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to continue to fund the triweekly Amtrak Pioneer passenger railroad service between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho.

(2) A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

POM-335. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the State of Oregon relies on its state trust lands to fund schools; and

Whereas the counties in the State of Oregon rely on federal timber receipts for school funds and vital elements of their infrastructure; and

Whereas responsible management of natural resources on federal land in this state is important for the economic, social and cultural stability of Oregon's communities; and

Whereas active forest management is necessary to prevent ecologic degradation by insects, disease and wildfire; and

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 provides a process for public participation in major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The President and Congress of the United States are urged to take action to prevent the designation of any national monument in the State of Oregon without full public participation and an express Act of Congress.

(2) The recipients of this resolution shall respond to this Legislative Assembly, conveying their plan to comply with this resolution.

(3) Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Council on Environmental quality and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

POM-336. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to Swiss bank accounts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Switzerland has established, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Congress and World Jewish Restoration Organization, an independent committee on eminent persons to examine the issue of dormant World War II era accounts in Swiss Banks; and

Whereas, a comprehensive claims resolution process has been established, which includes the publication worldwide of the names of foreign dormant account holders from the World War II era and the creation of a board of trustees of the Independent Claims Resolution Foundation, which is being set up to operate the claims settlement process for resolving claims to said dormant accounts; and

Whereas, Switzerland has created a nine member Independent Commission of Experts to investigate the complex issues surrounding the fate of assets brought to Switzerland because of National Socialist rule; and

Whereas, Switzerland has established a special fund for needy victims of the Holocaust/SHOA, which has received contributions from the major Swiss Banks and private sector groups and institutions; and

Whereas, the Swiss public has organized several efforts to provide assistance to needy Holocaust victims; and

Whereas, Switzerland—the government, the private sector and the people—have made an overwhelming effort to rectify matters; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That, the Massachusetts General Court urges the Congress of the United States to continue its diligent efforts in seeking the resolution of the complex issues surrounding these dormant World War II era accounts in Swiss banks; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to the Members thereof from this commonwealth.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1597. A bill to establish food safety research, education, and extension as priorities of the Department of Agriculture, to require the use of a designated team within the Department of Agriculture to enable the Department and other Federal agencies to rapidly respond to food safety emergencies, and to improve food safety through the development and commercialization of food safety technology; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1598. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish and provide a checkoff for a Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 1599. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.